

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2009

ANGLAIS

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

Série **L**

DURÉE DE L'ÉPREUVE: 3 heures - COEFFICIENT: 4

L'usage de la calculatrice et du dictionnaire n'est pas autorisé.

Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.
Ce sujet comporte 5 pages numérotées de 1/4 à 4/4.

Compréhension et Expression :	14 points
Traduction :	6 points

1 IT WAS MY FIRST DAY. I had come the night before, a gray-black and cold night before—as it
was expected to be in the middle of January, though I didn't know that at the time—and I could not
see anything clearly on the way in from the airport, even though there were lights everywhere. As
we drove along, someone would single out to me a famous building, an important street, a park, a
5 bridge that when built was thought to be a spectacle. In a day-dream I used to have, all these places
were points of happiness to me; all these places were lifeboats to my small drowning soul, for I
would imagine myself entering and leaving them, and just that—entering and leaving over and over
again—would see me through a bad feeling I did not have a name for. I only knew it felt a little like
sadness but heavier than that. Now that I saw these places, they looked ordinary, dirty, worn down
10 by so many people entering and leaving them in real life, and it occurred to me that I could not be
the only person in the world for whom they were a fixture of fantasy. It was not my first bout with
the disappointment of reality and it would not be my last. The undergarments that I wore were all
new, bought for my journey, and as I sat in the car, twisting this way and that to get a good view of
the sights before me, I was reminded of how uncomfortable the new can make you feel.

15 I got into an elevator, something I had never done before, and then I was in an apartment
and seated at a table, eating food just taken from a refrigerator. In the place I had just come from, I
always lived in a house, and my house did not have a refrigerator in it. Everything I was
experiencing—the ride in the elevator, being in an apartment, eating day-old food that had been
stored in a refrigerator—was such a good idea that I could imagine I would grow used to it and like
20 it very much, but at first it was all so new that I had to smile with my mouth turned down at the
corners. I slept soundly that night, but it wasn't because I was happy and comfortable—quite the
opposite; it was because I didn't want to take in anything else.

That morning, the morning of my first day, the morning that followed my first night, was a
sunny morning. It was not the sort of bright sun-yellow making everything curl at the edges, almost
25 in fright, that I was used to, but a pale-yellow sun, as if the sun had grown weak from trying too
hard to shine; but still it was sunny, and that was nice and made me miss my home less. And so,
seeing the sun, I got up and put on a dress, a gay dress made out of madras cloth—the same sort of
dress that I would wear if I were at home and setting out for a day in the country. It was all wrong.
The sun was shining but the air was cold. It was the middle of January, after all. But I did not know
30 that the sun could shine and the air remain cold; no one had ever told me. What a feeling that was!
How can I explain? Something I had always known—the way I knew my skin was the color brown
of a nut rubbed repeatedly with a soft cloth, or the way I knew my own name—something I took
completely for granted, "the sun is shining, the air is warm," was not so. I was no longer in a
tropical zone, and this realization now entered my life like a flow of water dividing formerly dry
35 and solid ground, creating two banks, one of which was my past—so familiar and predictable that
even my unhappiness then made me happy now just to think of it—the other my future, a gray
blank, an overcast seascape on which rain was falling and no boats were in sight. I was no longer in
a tropical zone and I felt cold inside and out, the first time such a sensation had come over me.

Jamaica KINCAID, *Lucy*, 2002

NOTE AUX CANDIDATS

Les candidats traiteront le sujet sur la copie qui leur sera fournie et veilleront à :

- respecter l'ordre des questions et reporter la numérotation sur la copie.
- (numéro et lettre repère, le cas échéant; ex. : 8b)
- faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne.
- composer des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger la réponse.
- respecter le nombre de mots indiqué qui constitue une exigence minimale.

En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement à la question posée.

I -COMPRÉHENSION -EXPRESSION

1. a) What sort of narrative is this?
b) Find information about the narrator (gender, skin colour, origin). Justify your answer with elements from the text.
2. Explain in what kind of place the narrator arrives at the very beginning of the passage. Quote the text.
3. Say whether the following elements belong to:
a) the past - b) the night before - c) the morning

A) l. 3: "on the way in from the airport"
B) l. 5: "a day-dream I used to have"
C) l. 9: "now that I saw these places"
D) l. 17: "my house did not have a refrigerator in it."
E) l. 21: "I slept soundly"
F) l. 27: "I got up and put on a dress"
G) l. 28: "setting out for a day in the country."
H) ll. 28-29: "the sun was shining but the air was cold."
4. a) How did the narrator feel back home? Quote two elements from the text to justify your answer.
b) How did the narrator use to cope with those feelings? Quote the text to support your answer. (20 words)
5. a) List the things that are new to the narrator in the second paragraph.
b) Explain the narrator's first reaction to what is new. (40 words)
6. l. 28 "*It was all wrong.*"
a) What does the pronoun "it" refer to?
b) Explain the sentence. (20 words)
c) Why is this episode a revelation for the narrator? (30 words)

7. l. 6 "*all these places were lifeboats to my small drowning soul*"
l. 37 "*an overcast seascape on which rain was falling and no boats were in sight*"
Comment on the two images of boats. (50 words)
8. How does the narrator feel about the past and the future at the end of the text? Give quotations from the text to justify your answer. (60 words)
9. Choose **one** of the following subjects (250 words).

Subject 1

To what extent do you think that day-dreaming can be disappointing?

Subject 2

Before the journey, the narrator used to write a diary which included thoughts, feelings and day-dreams. Imagine a page of the diary.

II -TRADUCTION

Translate from "I got into an elevator ..." l. 15 **to** "... anything else" l. 22